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## R E P O R T.

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THE present Report of the Council relates mostly to several undertakings of interest, which have been begun during the past year, and are not yet completed. The Council have had in mind the purpose of the Society to establish a library of Dantesque literature, and during the year several books of permanent value have been purchased and placed with others, of which account has been given in previous reports, in the Harvard College Library. The Society has made it possible, as well, to send a general order to the European agents of the Library to procure a copy of every new work relating to Dante to be placed in this collection.

In connection with this object of the Society should be mentioned the catalogue which Mr. Winsor has arranged to print during the coming year. It will contain a list of all editions of Dante and books relating to Dante in the Harvard College Library, the Boston Public Library, and the private collection,

spoken of in previous Reports, which is to be the foundation of what the Society hopes to make a library virtually complete for the purposes of the study of Dante. This will be a really important catalogue, and a copy of it will be sent to each member of the Society.

In the last Annual Report notice was made of some notes of Mr. Longfellow, intended to be used as additional illustrations to his translation of the *Divina Commedia*. These notes are in the hands of Professor Norton, and, as soon as the work of editing them is completed, they will be put in the hands of the printer. They will be printed upon sheets of imperial octavo size to correspond with the large edition of Mr. Longfellow's work. A set of these sheets will be sent to each member.

During the past year a work has been begun by a member of the Society which promises to be of value to students of Dante everywhere, and a permanent and honorable addition to the body of Dantesque literature in this country. Professor Fay, of the National Deaf and Mute College, has undertaken the preparation of a Concordance of the Divine Comedy. It is his intention to proceed with the work as rapidly as his time will permit, and he hopes to have the book ready for the press within three years. The printed pages sent to the members a short time

since, indicate the general plan of the work. The Council have assured Professor Fay of their approval of his undertaking, and of their desire to encourage him in every possible way, in the completion of his project. At the proper time, it is to be hoped that the Society will be able to take some part in insuring the successful publication of a much needed book.

In past Reports, some mention has been made of the work of American students of Dante. This year a bibliography of books and essays about Dante, which have ever been published in the United States, has been printed as an appendix to the Report. It has been prepared by Dr. Knapp, and has been made as complete as the materials at hand would permit.

The membership of the Society is substantially unchanged. As the means of the Society are restricted to its income from membership fees, it has not been possible to enter upon any ambitious work. Yet, at the expiration of the third year since the Society was organized, the reasons for its existence seem sufficient. If there are to be students of Dante in this country in the future, as there have been in the past, it cannot fail to be of some encouragement to them that there are fellow-countrymen, who, though they may not be active workers in the same field, are appreciative of what has been done in Dantesque

subjects in the past, and recognizing the place that the life and works of Dante occupy in the history of art and literature, have united to promote a study of the great poet.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, *President*,  
CHARLES ELIOT NORTON, *Vice-President*,  
JUSTIN WINSOR,  
LOUIS DYER,  
PHILIP COOMBS KNAPP, JR.,  
JOHN WOODBURY, *Secretary*,

*Council of the Dante Society.*

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

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